



## Ralston Bridge Work Protects Town From Ivan

### Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

#### *Lycoming County, Pennsylvania*

**Ralston, PA** - A bridge damaged by the January 1996 flooding cut the Town of Ralston, Pennsylvania, in half.

Debris had gathered at another bridge further upstream, forcing the creek through the Town and damaging the downstream bridge.

Although FEMA, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDot) and Lycoming County had done considerable bridge and creek work in the area, residents were justifiably concerned as the rainfall from Tropical Storm Ivan continued in September 2004.

According to Mark Murawski, transportation planner for Lycoming County, the residents "were ecstatic when the floodwaters passed without incident." The bridge and creek work had done their job.

FEMA and PennDOT had completed the work a few years earlier through a combination of hazard mitigation grant funds and state transportation contracts. A raising and widening of the upstream bridge had eliminated the debris/obstruction problem and the creek work facilitated the flow through the town.



#### Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County in a State**

FEMA Region: **Region III**

State: **Pennsylvania**

County: **Lycoming County**

City/Community: **Ralston**

#### Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public**

Hazard Type: **Severe Storm; Flooding; Hurricane/Tropical Storm**

Activity/Project Type: **Flood-proofing; Flood Control**

Activity/Project Start Date: **01/2001**

Activity/Project End Date: **Ongoing**

Funding Source: **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA); State sources**

Funding Recipient: **Transportation**

### Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **Amount Not Available**

### Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal  
Disaster? **Yes**

Federal Disaster #: **1093 , 01/21/1996**

Value Tested By Disaster? **Yes**

Tested By Federal Disaster #: **No Federal Disaster specified**

Year First Tested: **2004**

Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

### Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: **<http://www.floodsmart.gov/>**

Reference URL 2: **<http://www.pema.state.pa.us/>**

### Main Points

- A bridge damaged by the January 1996 flooding cut the Town of Ralston, Pennsylvania, in half.
- Although FEMA, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDot) and Lycoming County had done considerable bridge and creek work in the area, residents were justifiably concerned as the rainfall from Tropical Storm Ivan continued in September 2004.
- According to mark Murawski, transporation planner for Lycoming County, the residents "were ecstatic when the floodwaters passed without incident." The bridge and creek work had done their job.